

Claim 7 has been amended as follows:

7. (amended) The article of educational equipment of Claim 6 further including a row of straight tracks laterally [longitudinally] intersecting said apparatus at its center whereby the tracks are either contiguously connected to one another or connected to one another with the aid of the distinct end coupler, thereby bridging the non-contiguous ends of the tracks.

Claim 13 has been amended as follows:

13. (amended) The article of educational equipment of Claim 12 further including a column of straight tracks longitudinally [laterally] intersecting said apparatus at its center whereby the tracks are either contiguously connected to one another or connected to one another with the aid of said distinct end coupler, thereby bridging the non-contiguous ends of the tracks.

Claim 14 has been amended as follows:

14. (amended) The article of educational equipment of Claim 13 further including a row of straight rows laterally [longitudinally] intersecting said apparatus at its center whereby the tracks are either contiguously connected to one another or connected to one another with the aid of the distinct end coupler, thereby bridging the non-contiguous ends of the tracks.

Claim 18 cancel and substitute new Claim 21, as follows:

21. The article of educational equipment of Claim 16 further including an apparatus in the shape of two non-contiguous sets of connected arced and curved tracks each in the shape of a horseshoe located on the left and right sides of the design the open ends of each horseshoe shaped set of tracks located directly opposite and laterally positioned to one another and two non-contiguous straight tracks centrally located on the upper and lower sides of the design directly opposite and longitudinally positioned to one another, all of the horseshoe shaped sets of tracks and straight tracks border an octagon shaped open area in the middle of the design.

Claim 19 cancel and substitute new Claim 22, as follows:

22. The article of educational equipment of Claim 21 further including two straight tracks one laterally and centrally positioned within and abutting or lying at the interior sides of a set of horseshoe shaped tracks and the other similarly positioned within the opposing set of horseshoe shaped tracks, all of the horseshoe shaped sets of tracks, inclusive of said partially enclosed laterally positioned straight tracks, and longitudinally positioned straight tracks border an octagon shaped open area in the middle of the design.